

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

In Re: AUTOMOTIVE PARTS
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

12-md-02311
Honorable Marianne O. Battani

In re: STEERING ANGLE SENSORS

)

2:13-cv-01603-MOB-MKM

)

THIS RELATES TO:

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CONSOLIDATED AMENDED
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

)

ALL END-PAYOR ACTIONS

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JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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)

Plaintiffs Halley Ascher, Gregory Asken, Melissa Barron, Kimberly Bennett, David Bernstein, Ron Blau, Tenisha Burgos, Kent Busek, Jennifer Chase, Rita Cornish, Nathan Croom, Lori Curtis, Jessica Decastro, Alena Farrell, Jane Fitzgerald, Carroll Gibbs, Dori Gilels, Jason Grala, Curtis Gunnerson, Paul Gustafson, Tom Halverson, Curtis Harr, Andrew Hedlund, Gary Arthur Herr, John Hollingsworth, Leonard Julian, Carol Ann Kashishian, Elizabeth Kaufman, Robert Klingler, Kelly Klosterman, James Marean, Nilsa Mercado, Rebecca Lynn Morrow, Edward Muscara, Stacey Nickell, Sophie O’Keefe-Zelman, Roger Olson, Susan Olson, William Picotte, Whitney Porter, Cindy Prince, Janne Rice, Robert Rice, Jr., Frances Gammell-Roach, Darrel Senior, Meetesh Shah, Darcy Sherman, Erica Shoaf, Arthur Stukey, Kathleen Tawney, Jane Taylor, Keith Uehara, Michael Wick, Thomas Wilson, and Phillip Young (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated (the “Classes” as defined below), upon personal knowledge as to the facts pertaining to themselves and upon information and belief as to all other matters, and based on the investigation of counsel, bring this class action for damages, injunctive relief, and other relief pursuant to federal antitrust laws and state antitrust, unfair competition and consumer protection laws, and allege as follows:

NATURE OF ACTION

1. This lawsuit is brought as a proposed class action against Defendants Panasonic Corporation, Panasonic Corporation of North America (together, the “Panasonic Defendants” or “Panasonic”), Hitachi, Ltd., Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., Hitachi Automotive Systems America, Inc. (together, the “Hitachi Defendants” or “Hitachi”) and unnamed co-conspirators, manufacturers and/or suppliers of Steering Angle Sensors (defined below) for engaging in a long-running conspiracy to unlawfully fix, artificially raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids for, and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Steering Angle Sensors.

2. Plaintiffs seek to represent all persons and entities who, during the period from and including September 1, 2003 through such time as the anticompetitive effects of the Defendants' conduct cease (the "Class Period"), purchased or leased a new vehicle in the United States not for resale which included one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by the Defendants, any current or former subsidiary of the Defendants or any co-conspirator of the Defendants.

3. A "Steering Angle Sensor" is installed on the steering column of a vehicle and may be connected to, and part of, a combination switch. It detects the angle of the vehicle's wheels during turns and sends signals to the vehicle stability control system, which maintains the vehicle's stability during turns.

4. The Defendants manufacture, market, and sell Steering Angle Sensors throughout and into the United States. The Defendants and other co-conspirators (as yet unknown) agreed, combined and conspired to fix, raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, and allocate market shares for Steering Angle Sensors.

5. The U.S. Department of Justice's ("DOJ") Antitrust Division is currently conducting a broad criminal investigation into illegal price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry. As part of its criminal investigation, the DOJ is seeking information about unlawful anticompetitive conduct in the market for a number of different but related automotive parts, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") has participated in raids, pursuant to search warrants, carried out in the offices of a number of major competitors in the automotive parts industry. The automotive parts investigation is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued, both in terms of its scope and the potential

volume of commerce affected by the alleged illegal conduct. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry has yielded approximately \$2.3 billion in criminal fines. The European Commission Competition Authority (“EC”) has also conducted dawn raids at the European offices of several automotive parts manufacturers.

6. On July 18, 2013, the DOJ announced that Panasonic Corporation had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$45.8 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive parts, including Steering Angle Sensors, installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

7. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$195 million criminal fine and for its role in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of certain automotive parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

8. In its plea agreement, Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. agreed to “cooperate fully and truthfully with the United States in . . . the current federal investigation of violations of federal antitrust and related criminal laws involving the manufacture or sale of . . . automotive sensors” Hitachi’s guilty plea further provides that in exchange for its cooperation in the DOJ’s automotive parts investigation, including with respect to automotive sensors, the DOJ will refrain from criminally prosecuting Hitachi for price-fixing certain automotive parts, including automotive sensors.

9. The Defendants and their co-conspirators participated in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of, Steering Angle Sensors sold to automobile manufacturers and others in the United States. The combination and conspiracy

engaged in by the Defendants and their co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, and state antitrust, unfair competition and consumer protection laws.

10. As a direct result of the anti-competitive and unlawful conduct alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the Classes (as defined below) paid artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors during the Class Period and have thereby suffered antitrust injury to their business or property.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. Plaintiffs bring this action under Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26) to secure equitable and injunctive relief against the Defendants for violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1). Plaintiffs also assert claims for actual and exemplary damages pursuant to state antitrust, unfair competition and consumer protection laws, and seek to obtain restitution, recover damages and secure other relief against the Defendants for violations of those state laws. Plaintiffs and the Classes also seek attorneys' fees, costs, and other expenses under federal and state law.

12. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 26), Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1), and Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1331 and 1337. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d) and 1367, in that: (i) this is a class action in which the matter or controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and in which some members of the proposed Classes are citizens of a state different from the Defendants; and (ii) Plaintiffs' state law claims form part of the same case or controversy as their federal claims under Article III of the United States Constitution.

13. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 12 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. § 22), and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b), (c), and (d), because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District, a substantial portion of the affected interstate trade and commerce discussed below has been carried out in this District, and the Defendants reside, are licensed to do business in, are doing business in, had agents in, or are found or transact business in this District.

14. This Court has *in personam* jurisdiction over the Defendants because the Defendants, either directly or through the ownership and/or control of their subsidiaries, *inter alia*: (a) transacted business in the United States, including in this District; (b) directly or indirectly sold or marketed substantial quantities of Steering Angle Sensors throughout the United States, including in this District; (c) had substantial aggregate contacts with the United States as a whole, including in this District; or (d) were engaged in an illegal price-fixing conspiracy that was directed at, and had a direct, substantial, reasonably foreseeable and intended effect of causing injury to the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District. The Defendants also conduct business throughout the United States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the United States.

15. The Defendants engaged in conduct both inside and outside of the United States that caused direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable and intended anticompetitive effects upon interstate commerce within the United States.

16. The activities of the Defendants and their co-conspirators were within the flow of, were intended to, and did have, a substantial effect on interstate commerce of the United States. The Defendants' products are sold in the flow of interstate commerce.

17. Steering Angle Sensors manufactured abroad by the Defendants and sold for use in automobiles in the United States are goods brought into the United States for sale, and therefore constitute import commerce. To the extent Steering Angle Sensors are purchased in the United States, and such Steering Angle Sensors do not constitute import commerce, the Defendants' unlawful activities with respect thereto, as more fully alleged herein during the Class Period, had, and continue to have, a direct, substantial and reasonably foreseeable effect on United States commerce. The anticompetitive conduct, and its effect on United States commerce described herein, proximately caused antitrust injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes in the United States.

18. By reason of the unlawful activities hereinafter alleged, the Defendants substantially affected commerce throughout the United States, causing injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes. The Defendants, directly and through their agents, engaged in activities affecting all states, to fix, raise, maintain and/or stabilize prices, rig bids and allocate the market and customers in the United States for Steering Angle Sensors, which conspiracy unreasonably restrained trade and adversely affected the market for Steering Angle Sensors.

19. The Defendants' conspiracy and wrongdoing described herein adversely affected persons in the United States who purchased Steering Angle Sensors for personal use and not for resale, including Plaintiffs and members of the Classes.

PARTIES

Plaintiffs

20. Plaintiff Halley Ascher is a District of Columbia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

21. Plaintiff Gregory Asken is a Nevada resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

22. Plaintiff Melissa Barron is a California resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

23. Plaintiff Kimberly Bennett is an Arkansas resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s)

24. Plaintiff David Bernstein is a Minnesota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

25. Plaintiff Ron Blau is a Massachusetts resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

26. Plaintiff Tenisha Burgos is a New York resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

27. Plaintiff Kent Busek is a North Dakota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

28. Plaintiff Jennifer Chase is an Iowa resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

29. Plaintiff Rita Cornish is a Utah resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

30. Plaintiff Nathan Croom is a Nebraska resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

31. Plaintiff Lori Curtis is a Missouri resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

32. Plaintiff Jessica DeCastro is a Missouri resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

33. Plaintiff Alena Farrell is a Vermont resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

34. Plaintiff Jane Fitzgerald is a Vermont resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

35. Plaintiff Carroll Gibbs is a District of Columbia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

36. Plaintiff Dori Gilels is a Montana resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

37. Plaintiff Jason Grala is a New York resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

38. Plaintiff Curtis Gunnerson is a Minnesota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

39. Plaintiff Paul Gustafson is an Oregon resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

40. Plaintiff Tom Halverson is an Arizona resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

41. Plaintiff Curtis Harr is a North Dakota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

42. Plaintiff Andrew Hedlund is a South Carolina resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

43. Plaintiff Gary Arthur Herr is a Florida resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

44. Plaintiff John Hollingsworth is a California resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

45. Plaintiff Leonard Julian is a Nevada resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

46. Plaintiff Carol Ann Kashishian is a Wisconsin resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

47. Plaintiff Elizabeth Kaufman is a Florida resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

48. Plaintiff Robert Klingler is a Missouri resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

49. Plaintiff Kelly Klosterman is a North Dakota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

50. Plaintiff James Marean is a Maine resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

51. Plaintiff Nilsa Mercado is a Michigan resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

52. Plaintiff Rebecca Lynn Morrow is an Arizona resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

53. Plaintiff Edward Muscara is a New Hampshire resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

54. Plaintiff Stacey Nickell is a West Virginia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

55. Plaintiff Sophie O'Keefe-Zelman is an Arizona resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

56. Plaintiff Roger Olson is a Michigan resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

57. Plaintiff Susan Olson is a Michigan resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

58. Plaintiff William Picotte is a Washington resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s) while a resident of South Dakota.

59. Plaintiff Whitney Porter is a District of Columbia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

60. Plaintiff Cindy Prince is a Hawaii resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s) while a resident of Oregon.

61. Plaintiff Janne Rice is a West Virginia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

62. Plaintiff Robert Rice, Jr. is a West Virginia resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

63. Plaintiff Frances Gammell-Roach is a Rhode Island resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

64. Plaintiff Darrel Senior is a Kansas resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

65. Plaintiff Meetesh Shah is a California resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

66. Plaintiff Darcy Sherman is a Minnesota resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

67. Plaintiff Erica Shoaf is an Arizona resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

68. Plaintiff Arthur Stuke is a Vermont resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

69. Plaintiff Kathleen Tawney is a North Carolina resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

70. Plaintiff Jane Taylor is a Hawaii resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

71. Plaintiff Keith Uehara is a Hawaii resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

72. Plaintiff Michael Wick is a New Mexico resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

73. Plaintiff Thomas Wilson is a Mississippi resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

74. Plaintiff Phillip Young is a Tennessee resident who purchased at least one Steering Angle Sensor indirectly from at least one Defendant or its co-conspirator(s).

Defendants

75. Defendant Panasonic Corporation is a Japanese company with its principal place of business in Osaka, Japan. Panasonic Corporation – directly and/or through its subsidiaries,

which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Steering Angle Sensors that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period.

76. Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Secaucus, New Jersey. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its Japanese parent, Panasonic Corporation. Panasonic Corporation of North America manufactured, marketed and/or sold Steering Angle Sensors that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period. Specifically, Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, a registered assumed name of Panasonic Corporation of North America, is a division of Panasonic Corporation of North America and supplies automotive parts, including Steering Angle Sensors, to the North America automotive industry. Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America is headquartered in Peachtree City, Georgia and has its main sales office in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

77. Defendant Hitachi, Ltd. is a Japanese corporation with its principal place of business in Tokyo, Japan. Hitachi, Ltd. – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled – manufactured, marketed and/or sold Steering Angle Sensors that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period.

78. Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. is a Japanese company with its principal place of business in Tokyo, Japan. Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent, Hitachi, Ltd. Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. – directly and/or through its subsidiaries, which it wholly owned and/or controlled –

manufactured, marketed and/or sold Steering Angle Sensors that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period.

79. Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. It is a subsidiary of and wholly owned and/or controlled by its parent, Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. manufactured, marketed and/or sold Steering Angle Sensors that were purchased throughout the United States, including in this District, during the Class Period.

AGENTS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

80. Each Defendant acted as the principal of or agent for the other Defendant with respect to the acts, violations, and common course of conduct alleged herein.

81. Various persons, partnerships, sole proprietors, firms, corporations and individuals not named as defendants in this lawsuit, and individuals, the identities of which are presently unknown, have participated as co-conspirators with the Defendants in the offenses alleged in this Complaint, and have performed acts and made statements in furtherance of the conspiracy or in furtherance of the anticompetitive conduct.

82. Whenever in this Complaint reference is made to any act, deed or transaction of any corporation or limited liability entity, the allegation means that the corporation or limited liability entity engaged in the act, deed or transaction by or through its officers, directors, agents, employees or representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control or transaction of the corporation's or limited liability entity's business or affairs.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Steering Angle Sensors Industry

83. A Steering Angle Sensor is installed on the steering column of a vehicle and may be connected to, and part of, a combination switch. It detects the angle of the vehicle's wheels during turns and sends signals to the vehicle stability control system, which maintains the vehicle's stability during turns. Steering Angle Sensors manufactured by the Defendants are shown below.



84. Steering Angle Sensors are installed by original equipment manufacturers (“OEMs”) in new cars as part of the automotive manufacturing process. They are also installed by OEMs in cars to replace worn out, defective or damaged Steering Angle Sensors.

85. For new cars, the OEMs—mostly large automotive manufacturers such as Toyota Motor Corporation—purchase Steering Angle Sensors directly from the Defendants. Steering Angle Sensors may also be purchased by component manufacturers who then supply such systems to OEMs. These component manufacturers are also called “Tier 1 Manufacturers” in the industry. Tier 1 Manufacturers supply Steering Angle Sensors directly to an OEM.

86. When purchasing Steering Angle Sensors, OEMs issue Requests for Quotation (“RFQs”) to automotive parts suppliers on a model-by-model basis for model specific parts. Automotive parts suppliers submit quotations, or bids, to OEMs in response to RFQs, and the

OEMs usually award the business to the selected automotive parts supplier for the lifespan of the model, which is usually four to six years. Typically, the bidding process for a particular model begins approximately three years prior to the start of production of a new model. OEMs procure parts for U.S.-manufactured vehicles both in Japan and the United States.

87. The Defendants and their co-conspirators supplied Steering Angle Sensors to OEMs for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere. The Defendants and their co-conspirators sold Steering Angle Sensors (a) in the United States and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, and (b) in Japan and elsewhere for export to the United States and installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States, and (c) in Japan and elsewhere for installation in vehicles manufactured in Japan and elsewhere for export to and sale in the United States.

88. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Classes purchased Steering Angle Sensors indirectly from the Defendants. By way of example, an owner of a vehicle may indirectly purchase one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) from the Defendants as part of purchasing or leasing a new vehicle. An owner of a vehicle may also indirectly purchase for replacement one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) from the Defendants when repairing a damaged vehicle or where one or more of the vehicle's Steering Angle Sensors are defective.

B. The Defendants Increased Prices for Steering Angle Sensors in the Face of Declining Demand During the Class Period

89. The Producer Price Index ("PPI") measures the average change over time in the prices received by domestic producers for their output. The chart below (see Figure 1) provides a 2004-2012 illustration of motor vehicle brake system equipment pricing. Because Steering Angle Sensors are part of a vehicle's brake system, the PPI for motor vehicle brake system

equipment is a good indicator of the change over time in the prices received by domestic producers of Steering Angle Sensors.

90. The PPI for motor vehicle brake system equipment indicates that the prices for Steering Angle Sensors have increased during the Class Period.

91. Meanwhile, according to data from Bloomberg, demand for automobiles in the United States has generally decreased during the Class Period. From 2004 to 2009, the auto industry experienced a nearly 40% drop in demand. See Figure 1. The PPI for motor vehicle brake system equipment for the very same time period indicates that prices for Steering Angle Sensors increased. According to the law of supply and demand, prices during this period should have fallen, but instead they increased.

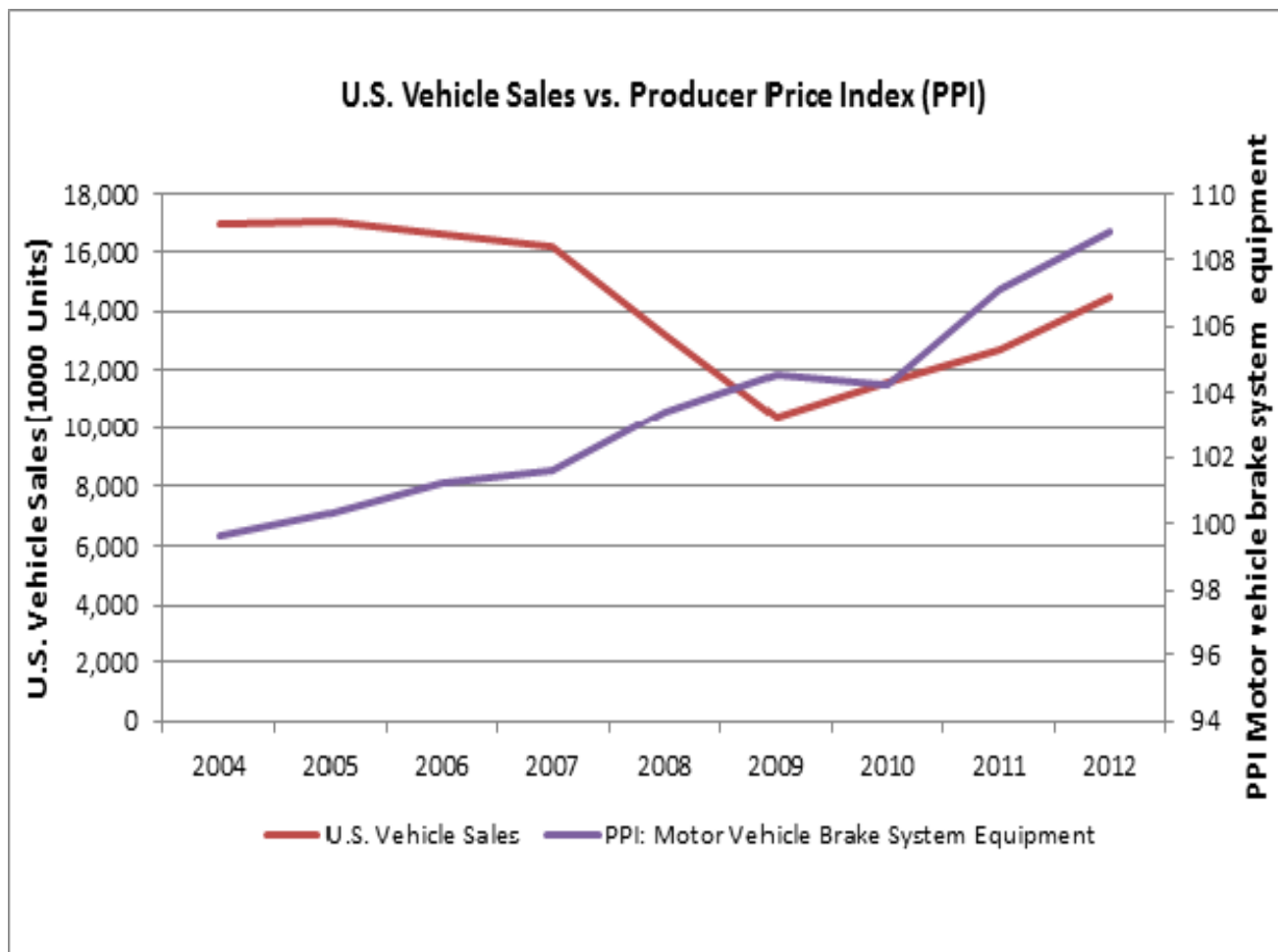


Figure 1.

92. In a competitive market, falling demand would lead to decreased prices because competitors would need to lower prices in order to attract customers and increase demand. In a market where competitors have engaged in a conspiracy to fix prices, however, competitors do not lower prices even when faced with decreasing demand. Such price decreases are unnecessary because the conspirators know that they will not lose sales to lower priced competitors.

93. The price of motor vehicle brake system equipment— and by extension Steering Angle Sensors — increased during the Class Period, even during periods when demand decreased. In a competitive market, falling demand should not have resulted in increased prices for Steering

Angle Sensors. Such anticompetitive price increases have resulted in Plaintiffs and members of the Classes paying supracompetitive prices.

C. The Structure and Characteristics of the Steering Angle Sensors Market Render the Conspiracy More Plausible

94. The structure and other characteristics of the Steering Angle Sensors market in the United States are conducive to a price-fixing agreement, and have made collusion particularly attractive in this market. Specifically, the Steering Angle Sensors market: (1) has high barriers to entry; (2) has inelasticity of demand; and (3) is highly concentrated.

1. The Steering Angle Sensors Market Has High Barriers to Entry

95. A collusive arrangement that raises product prices above competitive levels would, under basic economic principles, attract new entrants seeking to benefit from the supra-competitive pricing. Where, however, there are significant barriers to entry, new entrants are less likely. Thus, barriers to entry help to facilitate the formation and maintenance of a cartel.

96. There are substantial barriers that preclude, reduce, or make more difficult entry into the Steering Angle Sensors market. A new entrant into the business would face costly and lengthy start-up costs, including multi-million dollar costs associated with manufacturing plants and equipment, energy, transportation, distribution infrastructure, and long-standing customer relationships.

97. The Defendants own at least one patent related to the manufacture of Steering Angle Sensors. These patents place a significant and costly burden on potential new entrants, who must avoid infringing on the patents when entering the market with a new product.

98. In addition, OEMs cannot change Steering Angle Sensors suppliers randomly after a supplier is initially selected because the OEMs design the features of their vehicles so that Steering Angle Sensors they purchase for a vehicle are then integrated with the electronics,

mechanics and other features of the particular vehicle model. Thus, the design must be synergized by Steering Angle Sensors manufacturers and OEMs. It would be difficult for a new market entrant to do so.

2. There is Inelasticity of Demand for Steering Angle Sensors

99. “Elasticity” is a term used to describe the sensitivity of supply and demand to changes in one or the other. For example, demand is said to be “inelastic” if an increase in the price of a product results in only a small decline in the quantity sold of that product, if any. In other words, customers have nowhere to turn for alternative, cheaper products of similar quality, and so continue to purchase despite a price increase.

100. For a cartel to profit from raising prices above competitive levels, demand must be relatively inelastic at competitive prices. Otherwise, increased prices would result in declining sales, revenues, and profits, as customers purchased substitute products or declined to buy altogether. Inelastic demand is a market characteristic that facilitates collusion, allowing producers to raise their prices without triggering customer substitution and lost sales revenue.

101. Demand for Steering Angle Sensors is highly inelastic because there are no close substitutes for these products. In addition, customers must purchase Steering Angle Sensors as an essential part of a vehicle, even if the prices are kept at a supra-competitive level.

3. The Market for Steering Angle Sensors Is Highly Concentrated

102. A highly concentrated market is more susceptible to collusion and other anticompetitive practices. There is a high level of concentration among firms in the Steering Angle Sensors market. According to a leading industry report, the top four suppliers of Steering Angle Sensors control 99% of the North America market.

D. Government Investigations

103. A globally coordinated antitrust investigation is taking place in the United States, Europe, and Japan, aimed at suppliers of automotive parts. A Japan Fair Trade Commission (“JFTC”) official told a leading legal publication that automotive parts supplier investigations by the JFTC, DOJ and EC would continue to widen because the automotive industry as a whole comprises many sub-industries. He characterized the investigations being conducted by the U.S., European and Japanese antitrust authorities as “large and broad,” and he declined to deny that this “would be history’s largest case.”

104. The DOJ Antitrust Division’s broad criminal investigation into illegal price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automotive parts industry is the largest criminal investigation the Antitrust Division has ever pursued. The ongoing cartel investigation of price-fixing and bid-rigging in the automobile parts industry has yielded approximately \$2.3 billion in criminal fines.

105. On July 18, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Panasonic Corporation agreed to pay a \$45.8 million criminal fine and to plead guilty to a three-count criminal information charging it with participating in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of automotive parts, including Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota Motor Corporation and Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. (collectively, “Toyota”) for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as September 2003 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

106. According to the Information filed July 18, 2013, Defendant Panasonic Corporation and its co-conspirators carried out the Steering Angle Sensors conspiracy by:

(a) participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere;

(b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere;

(c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;

(d) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to coordinate price adjustments requested by Toyota in the United States and elsewhere;

(e) submitting bids, price quotations, and price adjustments to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;

(f) selling Steering Angle Sensors to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;

(g) accepting payment for Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;

(h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme; and

(i) employing measures to keep their conduct secret, including using code names and choosing meeting places and times to avoid detection..

107. According to the Plea Agreement filed August 5, 2013, Defendant Panasonic Corporation sold Steering Angle Sensors to Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North

America, Inc. through its United States subsidiary, which is located in the Eastern District of Michigan.

108. Additionally, on September 24, 2013, the DOJ announced that a Detroit Federal grand jury returned an indictment against an executive of Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America, a division of Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America, Shinichi Kotani, for his participation in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition in the automotive parts industry by agreeing to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of, automotive parts, including Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota for installation in vehicles manufactured and sold in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2004 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

109. According to the Indictment filed September 24, 2013, Shinichi Kotani and his co-conspirators carried out the Steering Angle Sensors conspiracy by:

(a) participating in, and directing, authorizing, or consenting to the participation of subordinate employees in, meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan to discuss the bids and price quotations to be submitted to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere;

(b) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on bids and price quotations to be submitted to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere;

(c) agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, to allocate the supply of Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere on a model-by-model basis;

(d) approving collusive and noncompetitive prices agreed upon by subordinates during those meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere;

(e) submitting bids and price quotations to Toyota in the United states and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached;

(f) selling Steering Angle Sensors to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices;

(g) accepting payment for Steering Angle Sensors sold to Toyota in the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices; and

(h) engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and Japan for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon bid-rigging and price-fixing scheme.

110. On September 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. agreed to pay a \$195 million criminal fine and to plead guilty to a one-count criminal information charging it with participating in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize, and maintain the prices of certain automotive parts sold to automobile manufacturers, including Ford, General Motors, Honda, Nissan and Toyota, and certain of their subsidiaries, affiliates, and suppliers,¹ in the United States and elsewhere from at least as early as January 2000 and continuing until at least February 2010 in violation of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

111. In its plea agreement, Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. agreed to “cooperate fully and truthfully with the United States in . . . the current federal investigation of

¹ Hitachi also pleaded guilty to price-fixing automotive products to Chrysler and Subaru.

violations of federal antitrust and related criminal laws involving the manufacture or sale of . . . automotive sensors” Hitachi’s guilty plea further provides that in exchange for its cooperation in the DOJ’s automotive parts investigation, including with respect to automotive sensors, the DOJ will refrain from criminally prosecuting Hitachi for price-fixing certain automotive parts, including automotive sensors.

E. Likely Existence of a Cooperating Defendant

112. The Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act (“ACPERA”) provides leniency benefits for a participant in a price-fixing conspiracy that voluntarily discloses its conduct to the Department of Justice. In most recent cases in which guilty pleas for price-fixing conduct have been obtained, there has been a cooperating party that has been accepted into the DOJ’s ACPERA program as an “amnesty applicant.” One of the leniency benefits for a conspirator that is accepted into the ACPERA program is that it is not charged with a criminal offense and is not required to plead guilty to criminal charges.

113. In light of the guilty plea in this case, guilty pleas in related automotive parts antitrust cases and the DOJ’s ongoing investigation into the industry, it is reasonable for this Court to infer that there is an ACPERA “amnesty applicant” in this case.

F. Guilty Pleas in Related Markets in the Automotive Industry

114. On September 29, 2011, the DOJ announced that Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$200 million criminal fine for its role in a criminal price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracy involving the sale of automotive wire harnesses and related products to automobile manufacturers.

115. In the press release announcing the fine against Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd., Sharis A. Pozen, then the Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department of

Justice's Antitrust Division, said that "[a]s a result of this international price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracy, automobile manufacturers paid noncompetitive and higher prices for parts in cars sold to U.S. consumers." Ms. Pozen also stated that "[t]his cartel harmed an important industry in our nation's economy, and the Antitrust Division with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to work together to ensure that these kinds of conspiracies are stopped." The press release also quoted FBI's Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, who said that "[w]hen companies partner to control and price fix bids or contracts, it undermines the foundation of the United States' economic system," and that "[t]he FBI is committed to aggressively pursuing any company involved in antitrust crimes."

116. On January 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Yazaki Corporation and DENSO Corporation had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a total of \$548 million in criminal fines for their involvement in multiple price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracies in the sale of automotive parts to automobile manufacturers in the United States. According to the three-count felony charge against Yazaki, it engaged in three separate conspiracies: (i) to rig bids for and fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of automotive wire harnesses and related products; (ii) to rig bids for and fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of instrument panel clusters; and (iii) to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of fuel senders. According to the two-count felony charge against DENSO Corporation, it engaged in conspiracies to rig bids for and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of electronic control units and heater control panels.

117. In the press release announcing the fines against Yazaki Corporation and DENSO Corporation, Ms. Pozen vowed to continue the investigation into "pernicious cartel conduct that results in higher prices to American consumers" In the same press release, Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena said that "[t]his criminal activity has a significant impact on the

automotive manufacturers in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe and has been occurring for at least a decade. The conduct had also affected commerce on a global scale in almost every market where automobiles are manufactured and/or sold[.]”

118. Ms. Pozen said there is no doubt **consumers** were hurt financially by the automotive wire harness price-fixing conspiracy. She further stated: “By rigging bids on wiring harnesses . . . the three companies inflated what some of their auto manufacturer clients paid, and indirectly, what consumers paid for some cars.”

119. On April 3, 2012, the DOJ announced that G.S. Electech Inc. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$2.75 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix the prices of speed sensor wire assemblies used on antilock brake systems installed in United States automobiles.

120. On April 23, 2012, the DOJ announced that Fujikura Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$220 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive wire harnesses and related products installed in United States automobiles.

121. On June 6, 2012, the DOJ announced that Autoliv Inc. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$14.5 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels installed in United States automobiles to automobile manufacturers.

122. On July 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that TRW Deutschland Holding GmbH had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$5.1 million criminal fine for its involvement in a conspiracy to fix prices of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels installed in automobiles sold in the United States.

123. On August 28, 2012, the DOJ announced that Nippon Seiki Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of instrument panel clusters installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

124. On October 30, 2012, the DOJ announced that Tokai Rika Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$17.7 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of heater control panels installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere. Tokai Rika also agreed to plead guilty to a charge of obstruction of justice related to the investigation of the antitrust violation.

125. On February 15, 2013, Scott Hammond, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the DOJ's Antitrust Division, discussed the DOJ's ongoing automotive parts investigation in a Thomson Reuters article. He said "[t]he investigation is broader than what we've announced so far [The investigation] is still very much ongoing, but it already appears to be the biggest criminal antitrust investigation that we've ever encountered. *I say the biggest with respect to the impact on U.S. businesses and consumers, and the number of companies and executives that are subject to the investigation.*" (emphasis added).

126. On July 16, 2013, the DOJ announced that Diamond Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of ignition coils installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

127. In the press release announcing the fine against Diamond Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd., Robert D. Foley III, Agent in Charge, FBI Detroit Division said "[t]hose who engage in price fixing, bid rigging and other fraudulent schemes harm the automotive industry by driving up costs for vehicle makers and buyers."

128. On July 18, 2013, Defendant Panasonic Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$45.8 million criminal for its role in three separate conspiracies to fix prices of automotive parts, one of which, the Steering Angle Sensors conspiracy, is the subject of this complaint. The other price-fixing conspiracies involved switches and automotive high intensity discharge (HID) ballasts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

129. On September 26, 2013, nine additional Japanese automotive suppliers, including Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems Ltd. agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy charges and pay more than \$740 million in criminal fines for their roles in rigging the prices of more than 30 different products:

(a) Mitsuba Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$135 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of windshield washer systems and components, windshield wiper systems and components, starter motors, power window motors and fan motors sold to automobile manufactures in the United States and elsewhere. Mitsuba also agreed to plead guilty to one count of obstruction of justice, because of the company's efforts to destroy evidence ordered by a high-level U.S.-based executive after learning of the U.S. investigation of collusion in the automotive parts industry;

(b) Mitsubishi Electric Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$190 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of automotive parts, including starter motors, alternators and ignition coils, sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

(c) Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$14.5 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and

maintain the prices of compressors and condensers sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

(d) T.RAD Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$13.75 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of radiators and automatic transmission fluid warmers (ATF warmers) sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

(e) Valeo Japan Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$13.6 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate the supply of, rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of air conditioning systems sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

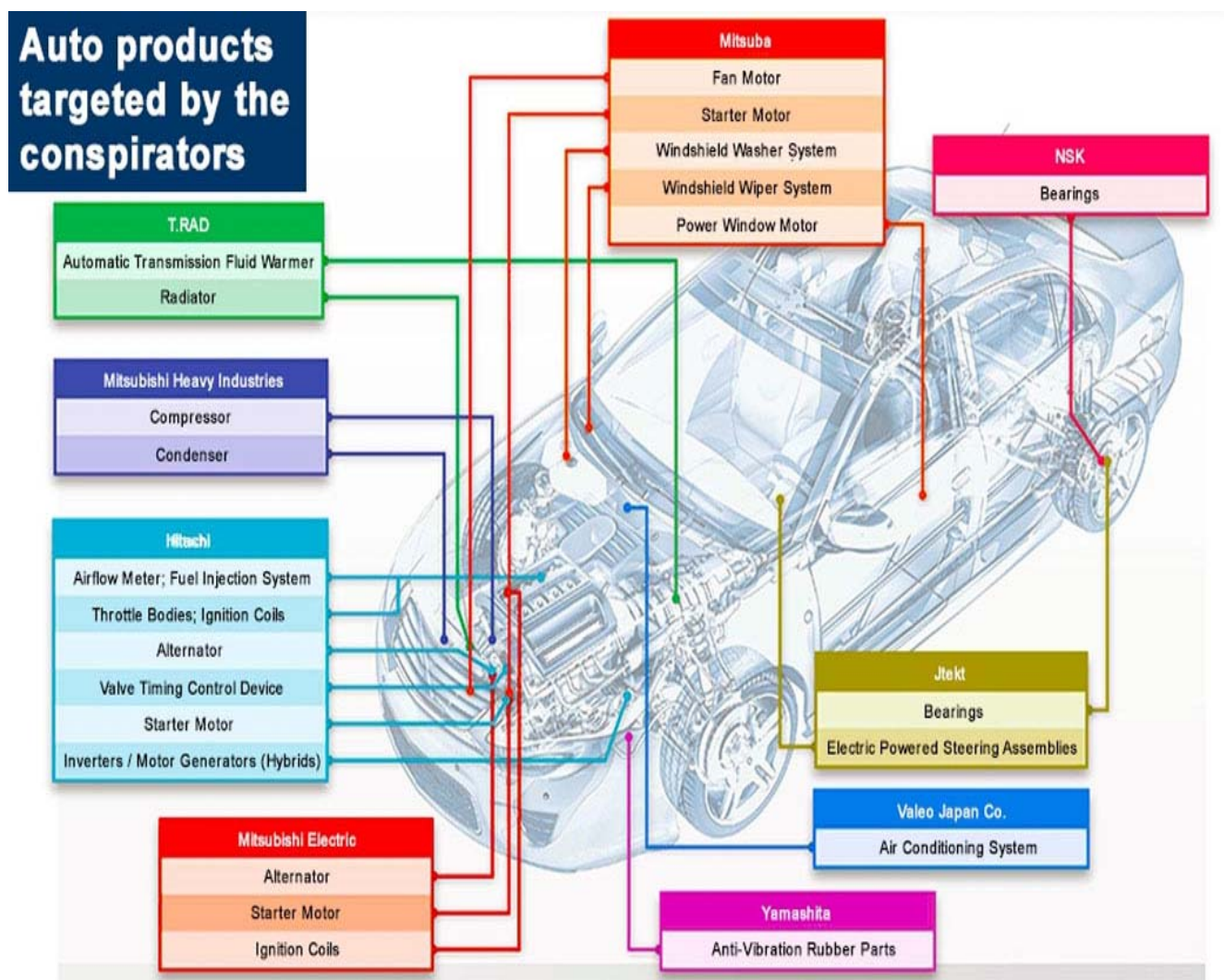
(f) JTEKT Corporation agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$103.27 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate markets, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of bearings and electric powered steering assemblies sold to automobile manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere;

(g) NSK Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$68.2 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to allocate markets, to rig bids for, and to fix, stabilize and maintain the prices of bearings sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere; and

(h) Yamashita Rubber Co. Ltd. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$11 million criminal fine for its participation in a conspiracy to rig bids for, and to fix, raise and maintain the prices of automotive anti-vibration rubber products sold in the United States and elsewhere to automobile manufacturers.

130. On the same day, September 26, 2013, United States Attorney General Eric Holder in the Antitrust Division presented the DOJ's most recent findings in the ongoing automotive parts investigation. He stated "[t]hese international price-fixing conspiracies affected more than \$5 billion in automobile parts sold to U.S. car manufacturers. In total, more than 25 million cars purchased by American consumers were affected by the illegal conduct." Holder also described how the conspiracies worked: "[c]ompany executives met face to face in the United States and Japan – and talked on the phone – to reach collusive agreements to rig bids, fix prices and allocate the supply of auto parts sold to U.S. car companies. In order to keep their illegal conduct secret, they used code names and met in remote locations. Then they followed up with each other regularly to make sure the collusive agreements were being adhered to." Attorney General Holder explained that the automotive parts conspiracies "targeted U.S. manufacturing, U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers. As a result of these conspiracies, Americans paid more for their cars."

131. The diagram below, which was prepared by the DOJ, illustrates the September 26, 2013 guilty pleas and the corresponding automotive parts to which the various manufacturers have admitted price-fixing.



132. On October 9, 2013, Takata Corporation announced that it had agreed to pay \$71.3 million to settle antitrust charges brought by the United States federal prosecutors for its role in a conspiracy to price-fix seatbelts.

133. On November 26, 2013, the DOJ announced that Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$120 million criminal fine for its role in two separate conspiracies to fix the prices of automotive components involving anti-vibration rubber and driveshaft parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

134. On November 27, 2013, the DOJ announced that Stanley Electric Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$1.44 million criminal fine for its participation in a

conspiracy to fix prices of automotive high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp ballasts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

135. On January 16, 2014, the DOJ announced that Koito Manufacturing Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$56.6 million criminal fine for its roles in separate price-fixing conspiracies involving automobile lighting fixtures and automotive high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp ballasts installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

136. On February 3, 2014, the DOJ announced that Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$6.86 million criminal fine for its role in a price-fixing conspiracy involving electronic throttle bodies sold to an automobile manufacturer in the United States and elsewhere.

137. On February 13, 2014, the DOJ announced that Bridgestone Corp. had agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$425 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices of automotive anti-vibration rubber parts installed in automobiles sold in the United States and elsewhere.

138. On April 23, 2014, the DOJ announced that Showa Corp. agreed to plead guilty and to pay a \$19.9 million criminal fine for its role in a conspiracy to fix prices and rig bids for pinion-assist type electric powered steering assemblies installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere.

139. To date, twenty-seven companies and thirty-five executives have been charged in the Antitrust Division's ongoing investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the automotive parts industry. Each of the twenty-seven companies has agreed to plead guilty and altogether, they have agreed to pay approximately \$2.3 billion in criminal fines. Twenty-four of the thirty-

five executives have been sentenced to serve time in U.S. prisons or have entered into plea agreements.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

140. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, seeking equitable and injunctive relief on behalf of the following class (the “Nationwide Class”):

All persons and entities who, during the Class Period, purchased or leased a new vehicle in the United States not for resale which included one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant or any co-conspirator of the Defendants.

141. Plaintiffs also bring this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure seeking damages pursuant to state antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws on behalf of the following class (the “Damages Class”):

All persons and entities who, during the Class Period, purchased or leased a new vehicle in the Indirect Purchaser States² not for resale which included one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a component part, or indirectly purchased one or more Steering Angle Sensor(s) as a replacement part, which were manufactured or sold by a Defendant, any current or former subsidiary of a Defendant or any co-conspirator of the Defendants.

142. The Nationwide Class and the Damages Class are referred to herein as the “Classes.” Excluded from the Classes are the Defendants, their parent companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, any co-conspirators, federal governmental entities and instrumentalities of the

² The Indirect Purchaser States are the states listed in the Second and Third Claims for Relief.

federal government, states and their subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, and persons who purchased Steering Angle Sensors directly or for resale.

143. While Plaintiffs do not know the exact number of the members of the Classes, Plaintiffs believe there are (at least) thousands of members in each Class.

144. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Classes. This is particularly true given the nature of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' conspiracy, which was generally applicable to all the members of both Classes, thereby making appropriate relief with respect to the Classes as a whole. Such questions of law and fact common to the Classes include, but are not limited to:

(a) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a combination and conspiracy among themselves to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize the prices of Steering Angle Sensors sold in the United States;

(b) The identity of the participants of the alleged conspiracy;

(c) The duration of the alleged conspiracy and the acts carried out by the Defendants and their co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy;

(d) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated the Sherman Act, as alleged in the First Claim for Relief;

(e) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated state antitrust and unfair competition law, and/or state consumer protection law, as alleged in the Second and Third Claims for Relief;

(f) Whether the conduct of the Defendants and their co-conspirators, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the business or property of Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;

(g) The effect of the alleged conspiracy on the prices of Steering Angle Sensors sold in the United States during the Class Period;

(h) Whether Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had any reason to know or suspect the conspiracy, or any means to discover the conspiracy;

(i) Whether the Defendants and their co-conspirators fraudulently concealed the conspiracy's existence from Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes;

(j) The appropriate injunctive and related equitable relief for the Nationwide Class; and

(k) The appropriate class-wide measure of damages for the Damages Class.

145. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Classes, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Classes. Plaintiffs and all members of the Classes are similarly affected by the Defendants' wrongful conduct in that they paid artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors purchased indirectly from the Defendants and/or their co-conspirators.

146. Plaintiffs' claims arise out of the same common course of conduct giving rise to the claims of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Classes. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in the prosecution of antitrust and class action litigation.

147. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Classes predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating to liability and damages.

148. Class action treatment is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, in that, among other things, such treatment will permit a large number of

similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress for claims that might not be practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the management of this class action.

149. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Classes would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for the Defendants.

PLAINTIFFS AND THE CLASSES SUFFERED ANTITRUST INJURY

150. The Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- (a) Price competition has been restrained or eliminated with respect to Steering Angle Sensors;
- (b) The prices of Steering Angle Sensors have been fixed, raised, maintained, or stabilized at artificially inflated levels;
- (c) Indirect purchasers of Steering Angle Sensors have been deprived of free and open competition; and
- (d) Indirect purchasers of Steering Angle Sensors paid artificially inflated prices.

151. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes paid supracompetitive prices for Steering Angle Sensors. These inflated prices have been passed on to them by OEMs and dealers.

152. The markets for Steering Angle Sensors and vehicles are inextricably linked and intertwined because the market for Steering Angle Sensors exists to serve the vehicle market. Without the vehicles, Steering Angle Sensors have little to no value because they have no

independent utility. Indeed, the demand for vehicles creates the demand for Steering Angle Sensors. As stated in the 2010 Annual Report of Lear Corporation, an automotive parts supplier: “Our sales are driven by the number of vehicles produced by the automotive manufacturers, which is ultimately dependent on consumer fleet demand for automotive vehicles.”

153. Steering Angle Sensors are identifiable, discrete physical products that remain essentially unchanged when incorporated into a vehicle. As a result, Steering Angle Sensors follow a traceable physical chain of distribution from the Defendants to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes, and any costs attributable to Steering Angle Sensors can be traced through the chain of distribution to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes.

154. Just as Steering Angle Sensors can be physically traced through the supply chain, so can their price be traced to show that changes in the prices paid by direct purchasers of Steering Angle Sensors affect prices paid by indirect purchasers of new motor vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors and Steering Angle Sensors purchased for repair purposes.

155. While even a monopolist would increase its prices when the cost of its inputs increased, the economic necessity of passing through cost changes increases with the degree of competition a firm faces. The OEM and dealer markets for new motor vehicles are subject to vigorous price competition. The OEMs and dealers have thin net margins, and are therefore at the mercy of their component costs, such that increases in the price of components such as Steering Angle Sensors lead to corresponding increases in prices for new motor vehicles and replacement parts at the OEM and dealer levels. When downstream distribution markets are highly competitive, as they are in the case of new motor vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors as components, overcharges are passed through to ultimate consumers, such as the indirect-purchaser Plaintiffs and class members.

156. Hence the inflated prices of Steering Angle Sensors both in new motor vehicles and those purchased for repair resulting from the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' bid-rigging and price-fixing conspiracy have been passed on to Plaintiffs and other class members by OEMs and dealers.

157. The economic and legal literature has recognized that unlawful overcharges in a component normally result in higher prices for products containing that price-fixed component. Two antitrust scholars – Professors Robert G. Harris (Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Business and Public Policy Group at the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley) and the late Lawrence A. Sullivan (Professor of Law Emeritus at Southwestern Law School and author of the Handbook of the Law of Antitrust) – have observed that “in a multiple-level chain of distribution, passing on monopoly overcharges is not the exception: it is the rule.”³

158. As Professor Jeffrey K. MacKie-Mason (Arthur W. Burks Professor for Information and Computer Science and Professor of Economics and Public Certification), an expert who presented evidence in a number of indirect purchaser cases involving Microsoft Corporation, said (in a passage quoted in the judicial decision in that case granting class certification):

As is well known in economic theory and practice, at least some of the overcharge will be passed on by distributors to end consumers. When the distribution markets are highly competitive, as they are here, all or nearly the entire overcharge will be passed on through to ultimate consumers...Both of Microsoft's experts also agree upon the economic phenomenon of cost pass through, and how it works in competitive markets. This general phenomenon of cost

³ Robert G. Harris & Lawrence A. Sullivan, *Passing on the Monopoly Overcharge: A Comprehensive Policy Analysis*, 128 U. PA. L. REV. 268, 275 (1979).

pass through is well established in antitrust laws and economics as well.⁴

159. The purpose of the conspiratorial conduct of the Defendants and their co-conspirators was to raise, fix, rig or stabilize the prices of Steering Angle Sensors and, as a direct and foreseeable result, the price of new motor vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors and the prices of Steering Angle Sensors purchased for repair purposes. Economists have developed techniques to isolate and understand the relationship between one “explanatory” variable and a “dependent” variable in those cases when changes in the dependent variable are explained by changes in a multitude of variables, even when all such variables may be changing simultaneously. That analysis - called regression analysis - is commonly used in the real world and in litigation to determine the impact of a price increase on one cost in a product (or service) that is an assemblage of costs. Thus, it is possible to isolate and identify only the impact of an increase in the prices of Steering Angle Sensors on prices for new motor vehicles even though such products contain a number of other components whose prices may be changing over time. A regression model can explain how variation in the prices of Steering Angle Sensors affects changes in the price of new motor vehicles. In such models, the prices of Steering Angle Sensors would be treated as independent or explanatory variables. The model can isolate how changes in the prices of Steering Angle Sensors impact the price of new motor vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors while controlling for the impact of other price-determining factors.

160. The precise amount of the overcharge impacting the prices of new motor vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors can be measured and quantified. Commonly used and well-

⁴ Order re: Class Certification at 13-14, *Coordination Proceedings Special Title (Rule 1550(b)) Microsoft I-V Cases*, No. J.C.C.P. No. 4106, (Cal. Sup. Ct. Aug. 29, 2000).

accepted economic models can be used to measure both the extent and the amount of the supracompetitive charge passed through the chain of distribution. Thus, the economic harm to Plaintiffs and class members can be quantified.

161. In addition to the regression analysis discussed above demonstrating impact on consumers, the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, which has been investigating anticompetitive conduct in the automotive parts industry for some time, **has concluded that there is "no doubt" that consumers were hurt financially**. Sharis A. Pozen, then Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, said there is no doubt **consumers** were hurt financially by the automotive wire harness price-fixing conspiracy. "By rigging bids . . . [automotive parts manufacturers engaged in a price-fixing conspiracy] inflated what some of their auto manufacturing clients paid, and indirectly, what consumers paid for some cars," Ms. Pozen said. She also explained that "[a]s a result of this international price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracy, automobile manufacturers paid noncompetitive and higher prices for parts in cars sold to U.S. consumers." Ms. Pozen also stated that "[t]his cartel harmed an important industry in our nation's economy, and the Antitrust Division with the Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to work together to ensure that these kinds of conspiracies are stopped." In a separate press statement, Ms. Pozen vowed to continue the investigation into "pernicious cartel conduct that results in higher prices to American consumers"

162. On February 15, 2013, Scott Hammond, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division, discussed the DOJ's ongoing automotive parts investigation in a Thomson Reuters article. He said "[t]he investigation is broader than what we've announced so far [The investigation] is still very much ongoing, but it already appears to be the biggest criminal

antitrust investigation that we've ever encountered. *I say the biggest with respect to the impact on U.S. businesses and consumers, and the number of companies and executives that are subject to the investigation.*" (emphasis added).

163. On September 26, 2013, United States Attorney General Eric Holder in the Antitrust Division presented the DOJ's most recent findings in the ongoing automotive parts investigation. He stated "[t]hese international price fixing conspiracies affected more than \$5 billion in automobile parts sold to U.S. car manufacturers. In total, more than 25 million cars purchased by American consumers were affected by the illegal conduct." Holder also described how the conspiracies worked: "[c]ompany executives met face to face in the United States and Japan – and talked on the phone – to reach collusive agreements to rig bids, fix prices and allocate the supply of auto parts sold to U.S. car companies. In order to keep their illegal conduct secret, they used code names and met in remote locations. Then they followed up with each other regularly to make sure the collusive agreements were being adhered to." Attorney General Holder explained that the automotive parts conspiracies "targeted U.S. manufacturing, U.S. businesses and U.S. consumers. As a result of these conspiracies, Americans paid more for their cars."

164. On May 25, 2014, news sources reported that Brent Snyder, a deputy assistant attorney general in the Antitrust Division, said with respect to the automotive parts conspiracies, "[i]t's a very, very safe assumption that U.S. consumers paid more, and sometimes significantly more, for their automobiles as a result of this conspiracy."

165. By reason of the violations of the antitrust law alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have sustained injury to their businesses or property, having paid higher prices for Steering Angle Sensors than they would have paid in the absence of the Defendants'

and their co-conspirators' illegal contract, combination, or conspiracy, and, as a result, have suffered damages in an amount presently undetermined. This is an antitrust injury of the type that the antitrust laws were meant to punish and prevent.

PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS ARE NOT BARRED BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

A. The Statute of Limitations Did Not Begin to Run Because Plaintiffs Did Not And Could Not Discover Their Claims

166. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations set forth above.

167. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had no knowledge of the combination or conspiracy alleged herein, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims set forth herein, until (at the earliest) July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

168. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes are purchasers who purchased or leased automobiles or purchased Steering Angle Sensors to replace or repair damaged or defective Steering Angle Sensors in their automobiles. They had no direct contact or interaction with the Defendants in this case and had no means from which they could have discovered the combination and conspiracy described in this Complaint before July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

169. No information in the public domain was available to the Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes prior to July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea, that revealed sufficient information to suggest that the Defendants were involved in a criminal conspiracy to price-fix and rig bids for Steering Angle Sensors. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes had no means of obtaining any facts or information concerning any aspect of the Defendants' dealings with OEMs or other

direct purchasers, much less the fact that they and their co-conspirators had engaged in the combination and conspiracy alleged herein.

170. For these reasons, the statute of limitations as to Plaintiffs' and the Classes' claims did not begin to run, and has been tolled with respect to the claims that Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes have alleged in this Complaint.

B. Fraudulent Concealment Tolled the Statute of Limitations

171. In the alternative, application of the doctrine of fraudulent concealment tolled the statute of limitations on the claims asserted herein by Plaintiffs and the Classes. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes did not discover, and could not discover through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the conspiracy alleged herein until July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

172. Before that time, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes were unaware of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, and did not know before then that they were paying supracompetitive prices for Steering Angle Sensors throughout the United States during the Class Period. No information, actual or constructive, was ever made available to Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes that even hinted to Plaintiffs that they were being injured by the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

173. The affirmative acts of the Defendants alleged herein, including acts in furtherance of the conspiracy, were wrongfully concealed and carried out in a manner that precluded detection.

174. Specifically, as Attorney General Holder explained in connection with the DOJ's globally coordinated investigation into price-fixing in the Automotive parts industry, "[i]n order to keep their illegal conduct secret, [Defendants] used code names and met in remote locations."

175. And, as stated in the Information filed against Defendant Panasonic Corporation, the Defendants and their co-conspirators employed “measures to keep their conduct secret, including using code names and choosing meeting places and times to avoid detection.” Also, as stated in the Information filed against Defendant Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., the Defendants and their co-conspirators employed “measures to keep their conduct secret, including, but not limited to, using code names and meeting at remote locations.”

176. Additionally, Hitachi admitted to destroying and/or altering documents in an effort to cover up its unlawful activity.

177. According to Hitachi’s plea agreement, in February 2010, Hitachi’s employees became aware of the criminal investigation into the price-fixing of automotive parts, including Alternators, when one of its co-conspirators was searched by law enforcement officers in the United States. Upon learning of the searches, Hitachi’s employees took steps to destroy evidence of the criminal activity. In July 2011, Hitachi’s employees learned that Hitachi was being raided by law enforcement outside the United States. Upon learning of the search, Hitachi’s employees took steps to destroy evidence of the criminal activity. On both occasions, the evidence that was destroyed included files and paper documents. Certain employees involved in the efforts to destroy evidence were Hitachi’s senior managers.

178. By its very nature, the Defendants’ and their co-conspirators’ anticompetitive conspiracy was inherently self-concealing. Steering Angle Sensors are not exempt from antitrust regulation, and thus, before July 18, 2013, Plaintiffs reasonably considered Steering Angle Sensors industry to be a competitive industry. Accordingly, a reasonable person under the circumstances would not have been alerted to begin to investigate the legitimacy of the Defendants’ Steering Angle Sensor prices before July 18, 2013.

179. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes could not have discovered the alleged contract, conspiracy or combination at an earlier date by the exercise of reasonable diligence because of the deceptive practices and techniques of secrecy employed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators to avoid detection of, and fraudulently conceal, their contract, combination, or conspiracy.

180. Because the alleged conspiracy was both self-concealing and affirmatively concealed by the Defendants and their co-conspirators, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes had no knowledge of the alleged conspiracy, or of any facts or information that would have caused a reasonably diligent person to investigate whether a conspiracy existed, until July 18, 2013, the date that the DOJ publicly announced Defendant Panasonic Corporation's anticipated guilty plea.

181. For these reasons, the statute of limitations applicable to Plaintiffs' and the Classes' claims was tolled and did not begin to run until July 18, 2013.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class)

182. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

183. The Defendants and unnamed co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy in unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

184. The acts done by the Defendants as part of, and in furtherance of, their and their co-conspirators' contract, combination, or conspiracy were authorized, ordered, or done by their officers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management of their affairs.

185. At least as early as September 2003, and continuing until at least the filing of this Complaint, the exact dates being unknown to Plaintiffs, the Defendants and their co-conspirators

entered into a continuing agreement, understanding and conspiracy in restraint of trade to artificially fix, raise, stabilize, and control prices for Steering Angle Sensors, thereby creating anticompetitive effects.

186. The anticompetitive acts were intentionally directed at the United States market for Steering Angle Sensors and had a substantial and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce by raising and fixing prices for Steering Angle Sensors throughout the United States.

187. The conspiratorial acts and combinations have caused unreasonable restraints in the market for Steering Angle Sensors.

188. As a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated indirect purchasers in the Nationwide Class who purchased Steering Angle Sensors have been harmed by being forced to pay inflated, supracompetitive prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

189. In formulating and carrying out the alleged agreement, understanding and conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including but not limited to the acts, practices and course of conduct set forth herein.

190. The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

(a) Price competition in the market for Steering Angle Sensors has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the United States;

(b) Prices for Steering Angle Sensors sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high, non-competitive levels throughout the United States; and

(c) Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class who purchased Steering Angle Sensors indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefits of free and open competition.

191. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class have been injured and will continue to be injured in their business and property by paying more for Steering Angle Sensors purchased indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators than they would have paid and will pay in the absence of the conspiracy.

192. The alleged contract, combination, or conspiracy is a *per se* violation of the federal antitrust laws.

193. Plaintiffs and members of the Nationwide Class are entitled to an injunction against the Defendants, preventing and restraining the violations alleged herein.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of State Antitrust Statutes
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)

194. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

195. From as early as September 2003 until at least the filing of this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a continuing contract, combination or conspiracy with respect to the sale of Steering Angle Sensors in unreasonable restraint of trade and commerce and in violation of the various state antitrust and other statutes set forth below.

196. The contract, combination, or conspiracy consisted of an agreement among the Defendants and their co-conspirators to fix, raise, inflate, stabilize, and/or maintain at artificially supracompetitive prices for Steering Angle Sensors and to allocate customers for Steering Angle Sensors in the United States.

197. In formulating and effectuating this conspiracy, the Defendants and their co-conspirators performed acts in furtherance of the combination and conspiracy, including:

(a) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States and elsewhere during which they agreed to prices of Steering Angle Sensors at certain levels, and otherwise to fix, increase, inflate, maintain, or stabilize effective prices paid by Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class with respect to Steering Angle Sensors sold in the United States;

(b) allocating customers and markets for Steering Angle Sensors in the United States in furtherance of their agreements; and

(c) participating in meetings and conversations among themselves in the United States and elsewhere to implement, adhere to, and police the unlawful agreements they reached.

198. The Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in the actions described above for the purpose of carrying out their unlawful agreements to fix, maintain, increase, or stabilize prices and to allocate customers with respect to Steering Angle Sensors.

199. The Defendants' anticompetitive acts described above were knowing and willful and constitute violations or flagrant violations of the following state antitrust statutes.

200. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arizona Revised Statutes, §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Arizona; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arizona; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Arizona commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, *et seq.*

201. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the California Business and Professions Code, §§ 16700, *et seq.*

(a) During the Class Period, the Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a continuing unlawful trust in restraint of the trade and commerce described above in violation of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code. The Defendants have acted in violation of Section 16720 to fix, raise, stabilize, and maintain prices of, and allocate markets for, Steering Angle Sensors at supracompetitive levels.

(b) The aforesaid violations of Section 16720, California Business and Professions Code, consisted, without limitation, of a continuing unlawful trust and concert of action among the Defendants and their co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to fix, raise, maintain, and stabilize the prices of, and to allocate markets for, Steering Angle Sensors.

(c) For the purpose of forming and effectuating the unlawful trust, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have done those things which they combined and conspired to do, including but in no way limited to the acts, practices and course of conduct set forth above

and the following: (1) Fixing, raising, stabilizing, and pegging the prices of Steering Angle Sensors; and (2) Allocating among themselves the production of Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) The combination and conspiracy alleged herein has had, *inter alia*, the following effects: (1) Price competition in the sale of Steering Angle Sensors has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the State of California; (2) Prices for Steering Angle Sensors sold by the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, stabilized, and pegged at artificially high, non-competitive levels in the State of California and throughout the United States; and (3) those who purchased Steering Angle Sensors directly or indirectly from the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been deprived of the benefit of free and open competition.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property in that they paid more for Steering Angle Sensors than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. As a result of the Defendants' violation of Section 16720 of the California Business and Professions Code, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek treble damages and their cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee, pursuant to Section 16750(a) of the California Business and Professions Code.

202. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the District of Columbia Code Annotated §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout the District of Columbia; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout the

District of Columbia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected District of Columbia commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under District of Columbia Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*

203. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Iowa; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Iowa; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Iowa commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Iowa Code §§ 553.1, *et seq.*

204. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Kansas; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Kansas; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Kansas commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs

and members of the Damages Class seek all forms of relief available under Kansas Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.*

205. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Maine; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Maine; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Maine commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Maine Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*

206. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Michigan; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Michigan; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Michigan commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Michigan Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.771, *et seq.*

207. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Minnesota Annotated Statutes §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Minnesota; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Minnesota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4)

Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Minnesota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Minnesota Stat. §§ 325D.49, *et seq.*

208. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 75-21-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Mississippi; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Mississippi; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Mississippi commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Mississippi Code Ann. § 75-21-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Mississippi Code Ann. § 75-21-1, *et seq.*

209. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nebraska; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Nebraska; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Nebraska commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.* Accordingly,

Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 59-801, *et seq.*

210. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Nevada Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Nevada; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Nevada; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Nevada commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Nevada Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A.010, *et seq.*

211. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Hampshire; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Hampshire; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Hampshire commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Hampshire Revised Statutes §§ 356:1, *et seq.*

212. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New Mexico Statutes Annotated §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and

(4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Mexico commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New Mexico Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, *et seq.*

213. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the New York General Business Laws §§ 340, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors when they purchased vehicles containing Steering Angle Sensors, or purchased products that were otherwise of lower quality than they would have been absent the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' illegal acts, or were unable to purchase products that they would have otherwise have purchased absent the illegal conduct.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of the New York Donnelly Act, §§ 340, *et seq.* The conduct set forth above is a *per se* violation of the Act. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under New York Gen. Bus. Law §§ 340, *et seq.*

214. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Carolina General Statutes §§ 75-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Carolina Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, *et seq.*

215. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the North Dakota Century Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Dakota; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on North Dakota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under North Dakota Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, *et seq.*

216. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Oregon; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Oregon; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Oregon commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Oregon Revised Statutes §§ 646.705, *et seq.*

217. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the South Dakota Codified Laws §§ 37-1-3.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Dakota; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were

raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Dakota; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Dakota commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under South Dakota Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.*

218. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Tennessee; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Tennessee; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Tennessee commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Tennessee Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*

219. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Utah; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Utah; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Utah commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Utah Code Annotated §§ 76-10-911, *et seq.*

220. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Vermont commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Vermont Stat. Ann. 9 §§ 2453, *et seq.*

221. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout West Virginia; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout West Virginia; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on West Virginia commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under West Virginia Code §§ 47-18-1, *et seq.*

222. The Defendants have entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Wisconsin Statutes §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' and their co-conspirators' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Wisconsin; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised,

fixed, maintained and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Wisconsin; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on Wisconsin commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in violation of Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.* Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Wisconsin Stat. §§ 133.01, *et seq.*

223. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class in each of the above states have been injured in their business and property by reason of the Defendants' and their co-conspirators' unlawful combination, contract, conspiracy and agreement. Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have paid more for Steering Angle Sensors than they otherwise would have paid in the absence of the Defendants' unlawful conduct. This injury is of the type the antitrust laws of the above states were designed to prevent and flows from that which makes the Defendants' conduct unlawful.

224. In addition, the Defendants have profited significantly from the aforesaid conspiracy. The Defendants' profits derived from their anticompetitive conduct come at the expense and detriment of the Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class.

225. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class in each of the above jurisdictions seek damages (including statutory damages where applicable), to be trebled or otherwise increased as permitted by a particular jurisdiction's antitrust law, and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent permitted by the above state laws.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of State Consumer Protection Statutes
(on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Damages Class)

226. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs.

227. The Defendants engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of the state consumer protection and unfair competition statutes listed below.

228. The Defendants have knowingly entered into an unlawful agreement in restraint of trade in violation of the Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-101, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants knowingly agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed, or obtained in Arkansas and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted "unconscionable" and "deceptive" acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10).

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Arkansas; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Arkansas; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived

of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Arkansas commerce and consumers.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiff and the members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(f) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Arkansas Code Annotated, § 4-88-107(a)(10) and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

229. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

(a) During the Class Period, the Defendants committed and continue to commit acts of unfair competition, as defined by Sections 17200, *et seq.* of the California Business and Professions Code, by engaging in the acts and practices specified above.

(b) This claim is instituted pursuant to Sections 17203 and 17204 of the California Business and Professions Code, to obtain restitution from the Defendants for acts, as alleged herein, that violated Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code, commonly known as the Unfair Competition Law.

(c) The Defendants' conduct as alleged herein violated Section 17200. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices and non-disclosures of the Defendants, as alleged herein, constituted a common, continuous, and continuing course of conduct of unfair

competition by means of unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent business acts or practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code, Section 17200, *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) the violations of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, as set forth above; (2) the violations of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, set forth above;

(d) The Defendants' acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures, as described above, whether or not in violation of Section 16720, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, and whether or not concerted or independent acts, are otherwise unfair, unconscionable, unlawful or fraudulent;

(e) The Defendants' acts or practices are unfair to purchasers of Steering Angle Sensors (or vehicles containing them) in the State of California within the meaning of Section 17200, California Business and Professions Code; and

(f) The Defendants' acts and practices are fraudulent or deceptive within the meaning of Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

(g) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class are entitled to full restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices.

(h) The illegal conduct alleged herein is continuing and there is no indication that the Defendants will not continue such activity into the future.

(i) The unlawful and unfair business practices of the Defendants have caused and continue to cause Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class to pay supracompetitive and artificially-inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors (or vehicles containing them).

Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of such unfair competition.

(j) The conduct of the Defendants as alleged in this Complaint violates Section 17200 of the California Business and Professions Code.

(k) As alleged in this Complaint, the Defendants and their co-conspirators have been unjustly enriched as a result of their wrongful conduct and by the Defendants' unfair competition. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class are accordingly entitled to equitable relief including restitution and/or disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by the Defendants as a result of such business practices, pursuant to the California Business and Professions Code, Sections 17203 and 17204.

230. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of District of Columbia Code § 28-3901, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and/or non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed or obtained in the District of Columbia.

(b) The foregoing conduct constitutes "unlawful trade practices," within the meaning of D.C. Code § 28-3904.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout the District of Columbia; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout the District of Columbia; (3) Plaintiffs and the

Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of District of Columbia Code § 28-3901, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

231. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, Fla. Stat. §§ 501.201, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Florida; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Florida; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Florida commerce and consumers.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Florida Stat. § 501.201, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

232. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Hawaii Revised Statutes Annotated §§ 480-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Hawaii; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Hawaii; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Hawaii commerce and consumers.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Hawaii Rev. Stat. § 480, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

233. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Mass. G.L. c. 93A, §2.

(a) The Defendants were engaged in trade or commerce as defined by G.L. c. 93A.

(b) The Defendants agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce in a market which includes Massachusetts, by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed, or obtained in Massachusetts and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Massachusetts; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Massachusetts; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were injured and are threatened with further injury.

(e) The Defendants have or will be mailed or delivered a demand letter in accordance with G.L. c. 93A, § 9, or, upon information and belief, such receipt of a demand letter was unnecessary due to the Defendant(s) not maintaining a place of business within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or not keeping assets within the Commonwealth.

(f) By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants engaged in unfair competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices, in violation of G.L. c. 93A, §2. The Defendants' and

their co-conspirators' violations of Chapter 93A were knowing or willful, entitling Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class to multiple damages.

234. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 407.010, *et. seq.*

(a) Plaintiffs and the Damages Class purchased Steering Angle Sensors for personal, family, or household purposes.

(b) The Defendants engaged in the conduct described herein in connection with the sale of Steering Angle Sensors in trade or commerce in a market that includes Missouri.

(c) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, affect, fix, control, and/or maintain, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed, or obtained in Missouri, which conduct constituted unfair practices in that it was unlawful under federal and state law, violated public policy, was unethical, oppressive and unscrupulous, and caused substantial injury to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(d) The Defendants concealed, suppressed, and omitted to disclose material facts to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class concerning their unlawful activities and artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors. The concealed, suppressed, and omitted facts would have been important to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class as they related to the cost of Steering Angle Sensors they purchased.

(e) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Missouri; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high

levels throughout Missouri; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(f) The foregoing acts and practices constituted unlawful practices in violation of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act.

(g) As a direct and proximate result of the above-described unlawful practices, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class suffered ascertainable loss of money or property.

(h) Accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under Missouri's Merchandising Practices Act, specifically Mo. Rev. Stat. § 407.020, which prohibits "the act, use or employment by any person of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, unfair practice or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise in trade or commerce....," as further interpreted by the Missouri Code of State Regulations, 15 CSR 60-7.010, *et seq.*, 15 CSR 60-8.010, *et seq.*, and 15 CSR 60-9.010, *et seq.*, and Mo. Rev. Stat. § 407.025, which provides for the relief sought in this count.

235. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Montana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act of 1970, Mont. Code, §§ 30-14-103, *et seq.*, and §§ 30-14-201, *et. seq.*

(a) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Montana; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Montana; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of

free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected Montana commerce and consumers.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Mont. Code, §§ 30-14-103, *et seq.*, and §§ 30-14-201, *et. seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

236. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining at non-competitive and artificially inflated levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed or obtained in New Mexico and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) The aforementioned conduct on the part of the Defendants constituted "unconscionable trade practices," in violation of N.M.S.A. Stat. § 57-12-3, in that such conduct, *inter alia*, resulted in a gross disparity between the value received by Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class and the prices paid by them for Steering Angle Sensors as set forth in N.M.S.A., § 57-12-2E.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New Mexico; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New Mexico; (3) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New Mexico commerce and consumers.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful conduct of the Defendants, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class have been injured and are threatened with further injury.

(f) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of New Mexico Stat. § 57-12-1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

237. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agree to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed or obtained in New York and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349, which

resulted in consumer injury and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of New York State in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout New York; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout New York; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected New York commerce and consumers.

(e) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Steering Angle Sensors in New York.

(f) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available pursuant to N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349 (h).

238. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce by affecting, fixing, controlling and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed or obtained in North Carolina and took efforts to conceal their agreements from Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class.

(b) The conduct of the Defendants described herein constitutes consumer-oriented deceptive acts or practices within the meaning of North Carolina law, which resulted in consumer injury and broad adverse impact on the public at large, and harmed the public interest of North Carolina consumers in an honest marketplace in which economic activity is conducted in a competitive manner.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout North Carolina; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout North Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct substantially affected North Carolina commerce and consumers.

(e) During the Class Period, the Defendants directly, or indirectly and through affiliates they dominated and controlled, manufactured, sold and/or distributed Steering Angle Sensors in North Carolina.

(f) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek actual damages for their injuries caused by these violations in an amount to be determined at trial and are threatened with further injury. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 75-1.1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

239. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the Rhode Island Unfair Trade Practice and Consumer Protection Act, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 6-13.1-1, *et seq.*

(a) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class purchased Steering Angle Sensors for personal, family, or household purposes.

(b) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce in a market that includes Rhode Island, by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed, or obtained in Rhode Island.

(c) The Defendants deliberately failed to disclose material facts to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class concerning their unlawful activities and artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors. The Defendants owed a duty to disclose such facts, and considering the relative lack of sophistication of the average, non-business purchaser, they breached that duty by their silence. The Defendants misrepresented to all purchasers during the Class Period that their Steering Angle Sensor prices were competitive and fair.

(d) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Rhode Island; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout Rhode Island; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(e) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violations of law, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class suffered an ascertainable loss of money or property

as a result of the Defendants' use or employment of unconscionable and deceptive commercial practices as set forth above. That loss was caused by the Defendants' willful and deceptive conduct, as described herein.

(f) The Defendants' deception, including their omissions concerning the price of Steering Angle Sensors, likely misled all purchasers acting reasonably under the circumstances to believe that they were purchasing Steering Angle Sensors at prices born by a free and fair market. The Defendants' omissions constitute information important to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class as they related to the cost of Steering Angle Sensors they purchased.

(g) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Rhode Island Gen. Laws. § 6-13.1-1, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

240. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants' combinations or conspiracies had the following effects:

(1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout South Carolina; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high levels throughout South Carolina; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(b) During the Class Period, the Defendants' illegal conduct had a substantial effect on South Carolina commerce.

(c) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class have been injured in their business and property and are threatened with further injury.

(d) The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiff and the members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

241. The Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive acts or practices in violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*

(a) The Defendants and their co-conspirators agreed to, and did in fact, act in restraint of trade or commerce in a market that includes Vermont by affecting, fixing, controlling, and/or maintaining, at artificial and non-competitive levels, the prices at which Steering Angle Sensors were sold, distributed, or obtained in Vermont.

(b) The Defendants deliberately failed to disclose material facts to Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class concerning their unlawful activities and artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors. The Defendants owed a duty to disclose such facts, and considering the relative lack of sophistication of the average, non-business purchaser, the Defendants breached that duty by their silence. The Defendants misrepresented to all purchasers during the Class Period that their Steering Angle Sensor prices were competitive and fair.

(c) The Defendants' unlawful conduct had the following effects: (1) Steering Angle Sensor price competition was restrained, suppressed, and eliminated throughout Vermont; (2) Steering Angle Sensor prices were raised, fixed, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high

levels throughout Vermont; (3) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class were deprived of free and open competition; and (4) Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class paid supracompetitive, artificially inflated prices for Steering Angle Sensors.

(d) As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violations of law, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class suffered an ascertainable loss of money or property as a result of the Defendants' use or employment of unconscionable and deceptive commercial practices as set forth above. That loss was caused by the Defendants' willful and deceptive conduct, as described herein.

(e) The Defendants' deception, including their omissions concerning the prices of Steering Angle Sensors, likely misled all purchasers acting reasonably under the circumstances to believe that they were purchasing Steering Angle Sensors at prices born by a free and fair market. The Defendants' misleading conduct and unconscionable activities constitutes unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of 9 Vermont § 2451, *et seq.*, and, accordingly, Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Class seek all relief available under that statute.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that:

A. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and direct that reasonable notice of this action, as provided by Rule 23(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, be given to each and every member of the Classes;

B. That the unlawful conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein be adjudged and decreed:

(a) An unreasonable restraint of trade or commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act;

(b) A *per se* violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act; and

(c) An unlawful combination, trust, agreement, understanding and/or concert of action in violation of the state antitrust and unfair competition and consumer protection laws as set forth herein.

C. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed under such laws, and that a joint and several judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be entered against the Defendants in an amount to be trebled to the extent such laws permit;

D. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class recover damages, to the maximum extent allowed by such laws, in the form of restitution and/or disgorgement of profits unlawfully gained from them;

E. The Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees and other officers, directors, partners, agents and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or claiming to act on their behalf or in concert with them, be permanently enjoined and restrained from in any manner continuing, maintaining or renewing the conduct, contract, conspiracy, or combination alleged herein, or from entering into any other contract, conspiracy, or combination having a similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following any practice, plan, program, or device having a similar purpose or effect;

F. Plaintiffs and the members of the Damages Class be awarded restitution, including disgorgement of profits the Defendants obtained as a result of their acts of unfair competition;

G. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes be awarded pre- and post- judgment interest as provided by law, and that such interest be awarded at the highest legal rate from and after the date of service of this Complaint;

H. Plaintiffs and the members of the Classes recover their costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, as provided by law; and

I. Plaintiffs and members of the Classes have such other and further relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: June 12, 2014

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury, pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, of all issues so triable.

DATED: June 12, 2014

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